

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SCA-01 /086 W

-----141443Z 124993 /73

R 131415Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1364

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 3814

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SHUM, SPOP, UNHCR, PO, MZ, US

SUBJ: REFUGEES FROM MOZAMBIQUE

REF: (A) MAPUTO 294 (DTG 230830Z MAR 77), (B) MAPUTO 461

(DTG 261510Z APR 77)

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SUMMARY: IN PORTUGUESE VIEW, MAR 16 MOZAMBICAN GOVERNMENT
EXPULSION DECREE DOES NOT AFFECT PORTUGUESE CITIZENS
RESIDING IN MOZAMBIQUE BUT MOZAMBICAN CITIZENS WHO ARE
CONSIDERED POLITICAL UNDESIRABLES BY REGIME. AN ESTIMATED
6,000 INDIVIDUALS WILL BE EXPELLED. THE GOP WILL GRANT THEM
ENTRY AS A HUMANITARIAN GESTURE BUT ITS CAPACITY TO PROVIDE
SUBSEQUENT ASSISTANCE WILL BE STRETCHED. UNHCR ASSISTANCE

IS THUS INDISPENSABLE. GOP HAS REQUESTED USG SUPPORT FOR ITS REQUEST TO HAVE UNHCR DECLARE THE MOZAMBICAN EXPELLEES REFUGEES. END SUMMARY.

1. RIBEIRO MENESES, DEPUTY HEAD OF FOREIGN MINISTRY'S AFRICA-ASIA DIVISION, AND COL. GONCALVES RIBEIRO, HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, IN RESPECTIVE MAY 3 AND MAY 6 MEETINGS GAVE THEIR VIEWS ON RECENT SERIES OF EXPULSIONS FROM MOZAMBIQUE. THEIR COMMENTS FOLLOW:

2. AFFECTED INDIVIDUALS: MOZAMBICAN GOVERNMENT (GPRM) MAR 16 EXPULSION DECREE AND SUBSEQUENT CLARIFICATIONS DO NOT APPLY TO ESTIMATED 20,000 PORTUGUESE CITIZENS RESIDING IN MOZAMBIQUE. HAVING DETERMINED THAT, GOP IS UNCERTAIN AS TO WHO OR HOW MANY WILL BE AFFECTED BY DECREE. TARGETS SEEM TO BE MOZAMBICANS, DESCRIBED VARIOUSLY AS "INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE ACTED AS FOREIGNERS;" HOLDERS OF FOREIGN (READ PORTUGUESE) PASSPORTS; AND "COMMERCIANTES DE NACIONALIDADE," AN AMBIGUOUS PHRASE WHICH CAN BE READ AS "MOZAMBICAN BUSINESSMEN" OR "NATIONALITY VENDORS." PRINCIPAL EXECUTORS OF THE DECREE ARE DISTRICT GOVERNORS, WHO INTERPRET DECREE IN WIDELY DIFFERING MANNERS. MERE CONTACT WITH PORTUGUESE CONSULATE IS IN ONE NORTHERN DISTRICT, GROUNDS FOR EXPULSION. IRREGULAR IMPLEMENTATION IS GUARANTEED BY THE DECREE'S VAGUENESS AND POOR EFFICIENCY OF GPRM ADMINISTRATION.

3. CLASS STRUGGLE: IN GONCALVES RIBEIRO'S OPINION, GPRM INTENT IS THE ELIMINATION OF THE LARGELY CONSERVATIVE CLASS. CONFIDENTIAL

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TIVE SMALL SHOP-KEEPERS AND BUSINESSMEN WHO, IN MARXIST-LENINIST GPRM IDEOLOGY, FORM THE LARGEST CONTINGENT OF THE REACTIONARY "PETIT BOURGEOIS" CLASS. MENESES ACKNOWLEDGED THIS TO BE ONE POSSIBLE OBJECTIVE BUT STRESSED IT WAS NOT THE ONLY ONE. "IN SUM," HE SAID, "THE GPRM HAS DEVISED A HIGHLY FLEXIBLE METHOD OF DEALING WITH UNDESIRABLES."

4. NUMBERS: FOREIGN MINISTRY ESTIMATE OF NUMBER TO BE EXPELLED COMES FROM THEIR MAPUTO EMBASSY, WHICH BASES ITS ESTIMATE SOLELY ON ROUGH PASSPORT DATA. THE FOLLOWING ESTIMATES WERE PROVIDED BY MENESES.

(A) INDIVIDUALS SUBJECT TO EXPULSION. 9,000

(B) NO. OF SUCCESSFUL APPEALS..... 3,000

(C) NO. ACTUALLY EXPELLED..... 6,000

(PLUS OR MINUS) 1,500

(D) PERCENTAGE OF BLACKS OR MULATTOS. 80 - 90

GONCALVES RIBEIRO REFUSED TO MAKE ANY ESTIMATES AND EXPLAINED THAT THE AVAILABLE DATA WERE FAR TOO UNRELIABLE

TO MAKE THE EFFORT WORTHWHILE.

5. RATE OF RETURN: FORTUNATELY, THE MOZAMBICAN REFUGEES WILL NOT ARRIVE IN A FLOOD UNLESS SPECIAL CHARTER FLIGHTS ARE LAID ON, WHICH IS UNLIKELY. ONLY THREE WEEKLY FLIGHTS ARE CURRENTLY ARRIVING IN LISBON FROM MOZAMBIQUE, THUS THE REFUGEE EXODUS WILL ONLY MODERATELY SWELL THE NORMAL WEEKLY INFLUX FROM ALL FORMER COLONIES. THE RECENT VOLUME OF EMIGRANTS TRAVELING TO AND FROM PORTUGAL AND ALL THE FORMER COLONIES HAVE BEEN AS FOLLOWS:

JAN FEB MAR

(A) ARRIVALS..... 2,726 1,696 2,543

(B) DEPARTURES..... 1,790 1,190 1,446

(C) ARRIVALS NEEDING GOP

ASSISTANCE..... 1,205 380 503

(D) ARRIVALS NEEDING GOP

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HOUSING..... 969 227 158

6. GOP RELIEF EFFORT: GOP DECISION TO ADMIT THE MOZAMBICAN REFUGEES WAS PURELY HUMANITARIAN. GOP WAS NOT OBLIGED TO ASSIST MOZAMBICAN CITIZENS. BUT THE GOP WAS MOVED BY THEIR STATUS AS STATELESS PERSONS AND APPALLED BY THE DRACONIAN PENALTIES AWAITING THEM IF THEY STAYED. HOWEVER, THEIR INFLUX -- REGARDLESS OF THE NUMBER -- WILL TAX HEAVILY THE ALREADY OVERBURDENED GOP CAPACITY FOR REFUGEE RELIEF. THE HIGH PERCENTAGE OF BLACKS AND MULATTOS AND THE LARGE NUMBER WITH INDIAN, PAKISTANI, AND CHINESE ANCESTRY WILL COMPLICATE THEIR INTEGRATION INTO SOCIETY. THE GOP WILL BE HARD PRESSED TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE ASSISTANCE.

7. APPEAL TO UNHCR: THE KEY TO ADEQUATE ASSISTANCE TO THOSE EXPELLED WILL BE WHETHER THE UNHCR CLASSIFIES THEM AS "REFUGEES," THUS QUALIFYING FOR UNHCR ASSISTANCE. THE GOP WILL MAKE A FORMAL APPEAL TO UNHCR GENEVA ON MAY 26 AND 27 TO THIS EFFECT. THE GOP HAS REQUESTED USG SUPPORT FOR THIS INITIATIVE.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: USG SUPPORT FOR ABOVE GOP APPEAL AT UNHCR.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SHUM, SPOP, PO, MZ, US, UNHCR
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